

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2005-292-C - ORDER NO. 2005-603
OCTOBER 19, 2005

IN RE: Petition of BellSouth Telecommunications,) ORDER REVERSING
Inc. for Review of NXX Code Denial in the) NANPA DECISION
Charleston Rate Center.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) on the Petition for Review of the denial by the North American Numbering Plan Administration (NANPA) of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.'s (BellSouth's or the Company's) application for use of central office code numbering resources in the 843 area code.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set a "rate center" basis for determining the need for new numbering resources. Under FCC rules, carriers must establish that existing inventory within the carrier's rate center will be exhausted within six months of their code application (months-to-exhaust or MTE), and the carriers had to meet a rate center utilization threshold of 60 percent in order to receive additional numbering resources. The utilization threshold has increased by five percent per year, and has now reached the maximum of 75 percent. Based on the FCC's orders, carriers must meet both the six months MTE requirement and the utilization threshold on a rate center basis in order to obtain numbering resources.

On or about September 22, 2005, according to BellSouth, the Company submitted a Pooling Administration System request to NANPA and NeuStar for the assignment of

three consecutive thousand number blocks with the same NXX to go with the customer's existing dialing plan in the Charleston, South Carolina exchange. These numbers are needed, according to BellSouth, to meet the numbering demands of Trident Medical Center. This customer is requesting additional PRI telephone numbers to work in conjunction with existing PRI numbers that terminate in the customer's PBX located at 9330 Medical Plaza Drive in Charleston. The hospital system is growing and expanding services. These numbers are needed for patients' rooms, clinical services, and hospital support services. As BellSouth does not have existing numbers to meet the customer's request, three new consecutive thousand number blocks with the same NXX are needed. According to BellSouth, the Company's application was completed in accordance with Industry Numbering Committee's (INC's) and/or NANPA's guidelines and filled out the necessary MTE Certification Worksheets. At the time of the filing of the code request, the BellSouth Charleston Rate Center had a MTE of 11.18 months and a utilization of 72.57%.

Thereafter, also on September 22, 2005, NANPA's Central Office Code Administration denied BellSouth's code request because BellSouth had not met the rate center based MTE criterion now set forth in the Central Office Code (NXX) Guidelines. The Company notes that NANPA denied BellSouth's code requests, despite the fact that BellSouth does not have adequate numbering resources needed to satisfy its customer's demands in the Charleston Rate Center.

BellSouth states that its inability to provide this important customer with the requested numbers prevents BellSouth from providing the quality of service this

customer desires, needs, and expects. BellSouth notes that if it is not assigned the NXX thousand number blocks needed to meet the customer's request, BellSouth will be unable to provide telecommunications services requested by the customer. Further, according to BellSouth, NANPA's refusal to grant numbering resources sufficient to meet the customer's needs is inconsistent with the FCC's position that "[u]nder no circumstances should consumers be precluded from receiving telecommunications services of their choice from providers of their choice for want of numbering resources." FCC 00-429 at Paragraph 61.

According to BellSouth, both the FCC's rules and the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines provide that state regulatory authorities have the power and authority to review NANPA's decision to deny a request for numbering resources. Prior to the FCC's Order and the resulting change in the Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines, the MTE procedures used by NANPA permitted a carrier to receive a code assignment, even if the MTE requirement at the switch level was not met. These waivers or exceptions were granted where customer hardships could be demonstrated or where the service provider's inventory did not have a block of sequential numbers large enough to meet the customer's specific request. Under today's procedures, NANPA looks at MTE for the entire rate center without any exceptions. The FCC has determined, however, that States may grant relief "if a carrier demonstrates that it has received a customer request for numbering resources in a given rate center that it cannot meet with its current inventory." FCC 01-362, Paragraph 64. In addition, the FCC has

ruled that, “States...may grant requests for customers seeking contiguous block of numbers.” Id.

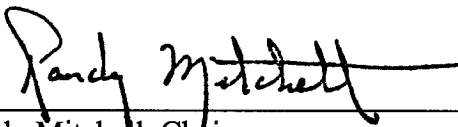
BellSouth therefore requests that this Commission reverse NANPA’s decision to withhold numbering resources from the Company on several grounds. First, BellSouth notes that NANPA’s decision to withhold numbering resources from BellSouth interferes with BellSouth’s ability to provide telecommunication services to its customers as required under South Carolina law. Second, BellSouth states that its request for numbering resources would not materially impact exhaustion of the 843 area code. Lastly, BellSouth states that other state regulatory agencies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, and Tennessee similarly have recognized their jurisdiction and authority to review NANPA denials and to order the release of number resources to BellSouth to meet customer needs. Specifically, BellSouth requests that this Commission reverse the decision of NANPA denying BellSouth’s request for additional numbering resources and direct NANPA to provide the requested three consecutive thousand number blocks with the same NXX to go with the customer’s existing dialing plan in the Charleston, South Carolina Rate Center.

We agree with BellSouth, and hereby reverse NANPA’s decision. We hold that BellSouth has demonstrated that it has received a customer request for numbering resources in a given rate center that BellSouth cannot meet with its current inventory. NANPA is hereby directed to approve BellSouth’s code assignment request originally submitted on or about September 22, 2005, for three consecutive thousand number blocks with the same NXX to go with the customer’s existing dialing plan in the Charleston,

South Carolina exchange as soon as possible. We believe that the additional numbering resource is necessary to meet the legitimate demands of BellSouth's customer for telecommunications service. Further, it should be noted that this request would not materially impact exhaustion of the available NXXs in the 843 area code.

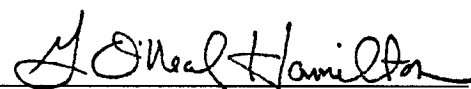
This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Randy Mitchell, Chairman

ATTEST:



G. O'Neal Hamilton, Vice Chairman

(SEAL)